



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR.
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Denise Tucker

Phone: (304) 558-2021

Attorney General McGraw Joins Broad Coalition to Sponsor 11th Annual National Consumer Protection Week

West Virginia Attorney General Darrell McGraw announced today that his office has joined a group of federal, state, and local government agencies and national consumer organizations launching the 11th annual National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW), March 1-7, 2009 – highlighting consumer education efforts across the nation. Information can help people get the most for their money, whether they are trying to stretch their paychecks, find a quick fix for a spotty credit history, or tell the difference between a real deal and a potentially fraudulent product or service.

"My office is proud to be part of this year's National Consumer Protection Week campaign," said Attorney General Darrell McGraw. "In times like these, information is one commodity that retains its value. We invite everyone to visit our website at www.wvago.gov or www.consumer.gov/ncpw for the tools they can use to make smart choices in the marketplace."

"According to the Federal Trade Commission, scam artists, fraudsters and four flushers follow the headlines, and are likely to be using the economic downturn to take advantage of consumers who may be underwater financially. My office has the educational tools that people can use to recognize a rip-off, sniff out a scam, and make smart choices for today's market", McGraw concluded.

McGraw's Office is participating in several events and activities around the state for the benefit of consumer education.

Monday, March 2, 2009, join Attorney General McGraw and Deputy Attorney General Jill Miles of the Consumer Protection Division as they team up with representatives from AARP and Verizon to sponsor a Consumer University on Cyber Safety at the Charleston Marriott Hotel on Lee Street, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Residents who wish to participate must RSVP with the AARP Foundation by calling 1-877-926-8300.

Monday, March 2, 2009, Staff members from the Attorney General's Office will partner with the United States Postal Service with a Consumer Education Booth at the Charleston Post Office located at 1002 Lee Street East, Charleston, WV from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 3, 2009, Staff members from the Attorney General's Office will again partner with the United States Postal Service with a Consumer Education Booth at the Huntington Post Office located at 1000 Virginia Avenue West, Huntington, WV 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Both events with the Postal Service will be to educate consumers on how to recognize a rip-off, sniff out a scam and how to deter and detect identity theft.

Wednesday, March 4, 2009, The Attorney General's Office, and AARP with other state officials will hold a press conference in

the Governor's Press Conference Room to Proclaim National Consumer Protection Week in West Virginia. This is scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 4, 2009, Staff members from the Attorney General's Office will be at the Elk River Community Center located at 902 Main Street, Elkview, WV from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. to educate consumers against identity theft.

Thursday, March 5, 2009, Staff members will be on hand at the Tiskelwah Community Center located at 600 Florida Street, Charleston, WV, from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. to present: Fake Checks – Real Problems. This presentation outlines various types of Fake check fraud and how people can protect them selves.

National organizers of this year's NCPW include AARP, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Consumer Federation of America, the Council of Better Business Bureaus, the Federal Citizen's Information Center, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Trade Commission, the National Association of Attorneys General, the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators, the National Consumers League, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and the U.S. Postal Service.

If you should need the assistance of Attorney General Darrell McGraw's Consumer Protection Division you are encouraged to contact our toll-free consumer hotline at 1-800-368-8808 or visit our website at www.wvago.gov.

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